Reception Room

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TIME FOR UP-TO-DATE MACHINERY

The following article, under the above heading, is from an editorial in The American Wool and Cotton Reporter of June 21, 1917. It seems appropriate to the present business situation.

"Probably no concern, except those actually offering such machinery for sale, and certainly none not actively engaged in the industry, has so generally advocated the installation of up-to-date or automatic machinery so consistently or so strongly as the American Wool and Cotton Reporter.

If the need for such machinery was great in the past, it is even greater at the present time, and at every favorable opportunity manufacturers should take advantage of present conditions and place themselves in an efficient position, so far as the future is concerned.

It is true that automatic machinery may not be as necessary in the future as it has been in the recent past, but one can never tell, and therefore every preparation should be made for any possible development.

It may be wondered why the installation is advocated at present and for this reason we mention a few of the important developments which may be noted.

First and foremost is the fact that extremely large profits have been secured recently and are being secured at present, and in justice to stockholders, for the building up of efficiency, and as a protection for the future, the best machinery should be purchased. There are quite a number of mills in which rather out-of-date machinery is still being used, and while such machinery is in good shape, and will wear for some years to come, nevertheless it is not economical, and may be a millstone around the manufacturer's neck, where it is being used.

Up-to-date machinery tends to stabilize profits; that is, a profit of 10 per cent. may be secured with good machinery when other concerns are obtaining no profit at all, or are building up a deficit.

What difference does it make if automatic looms do not earn double the amount when profits are running at 25 per cent. or higher? One thing is very certain, and this is that no matter what the profits from ordinary machines are, the profits through the operation of up-to-date machines will regularly be higher, and **the excess profits will justify their installation.**

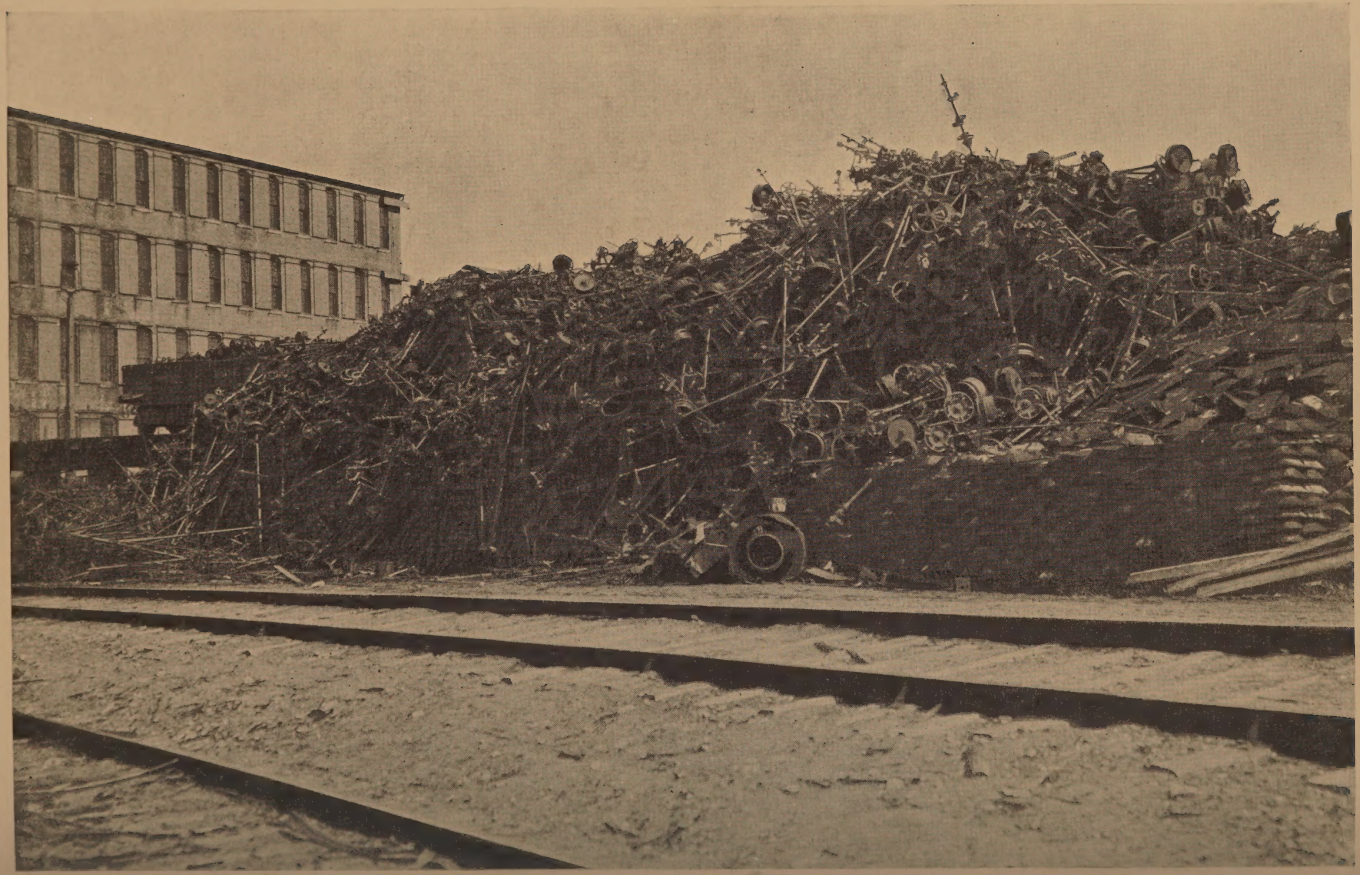
At no time has it been more desirable for the industry to be in an up-to-date condition, and for the following reasons: Many consider that the range of wages for all domestic industries is on a permanently higher basis, and due to lack of immigration, and the development of industry, the textile producers are likely to be affected more seriously than others through a shortage of employes.

This has already been noted and is likely to be even more apparent in the future. If sufficient operatives are available it is very likely that the quality will be such that only through the installation of the very best machinery can the percentage of production be kept high, and the quality of the fabrics made be held up or even improved. The automatic loom is, perhaps, the leading exponent of cost reduction, but it can be used much more extensively than it has up to the present time. Weaving costs have always formed a relatively large percentage of the total cost and inasmuch as automatic looms practically always cut weaving costs in two, or more, these are perhaps of greater interest.

The installation has been general in the newer mills, and with the larger profits many of the older looms are being displaced by automatics, but there are many fabrics being made which can be produced at a lower cost by such machinery. At present the replacement of many looms seems to be of much greater importance than the building up of a greater production, and for the good of the industry, sellers of such machinery ought to be more inclined to have looms replaced than new mills built.

There is a big field in the automatic loom production of wool goods which has as yet been scarcely touched and more producers ought to be interested. For various reasons up-to-date machinery ought to be employed."

The illustration on next page shows the remains of several thousand old Common looms awaiting evolution as new Northrop looms.



A Mountain of Old Looms